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Chancellor's Column

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Chancellor's Column

Summary:

(June 12, 2003)-The successful effort to secure bonding to renovate the Social Science Building and upgrade fire protection systems in three campus residence halls on the UMM campus is good news for our region.

Of course, the most important aspect of this story is that a major classroom and office building, one which serves all of our students and many of our faculty, will be reconditioned into an attractive, functional instructional facility. As those who have visited the Social Science Building on our historic mall know, this structure is still solid and sound, but the interior is woefully deficient for the purposes to which it is now put.

It is also important to Morris and Stevens County that this project will bring about \$9,000,000 in construction to our region. This will be a significant boost for our local economy. Workers will be employed, materials purchased, and services needed as this work proceeds.

These historic mall renovation projects, when added to the new Science Building, the renovation of the old Science building and the RFC bring to nearly \$50 million the construction activity on UMM's campus over the past half-dozen years. Obviously, this is a major economic development stimulus for the area.

Our hope is that all the planning and bidding for this work can be completed by the end of the college academic year in May, 2004, and that the actual construction can begin right after graduation next year. Then, if all goes smoothly, we hope to complete the project in about 15 months, perhaps in time for the opening of classes in fall, 2005.

Thanks to all those in the community who have helped us secure the funding to move forward with this important set of campus improvements. I'd encourage everyone to stop in and walk through the current Social Science Building (just to the north of Behmler Hall, the administration building) sometime soon: it will be fascinating to see the "before and after" interiors of the facility.

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